



KSU's Retention Rate Climbs 38 Percent

A study from Kentucky State University's Office of Institutional Research and Effectiveness has revealed a 38 percent increase in the University's retention. The recently published 2014-2015 retention rate of 60.2 % is KSU's highest in 10 years. Retention rate is calculated as percent of first-time, full-time bachelor degree-seeking (Cohort) students who enrolled in previous fall term and returned in current fall term.

Although overall enrollment at the HBCU is lower at 1,585 total students compared with 1,895 students from fall 2014, all of the students are engaged and financially viable.

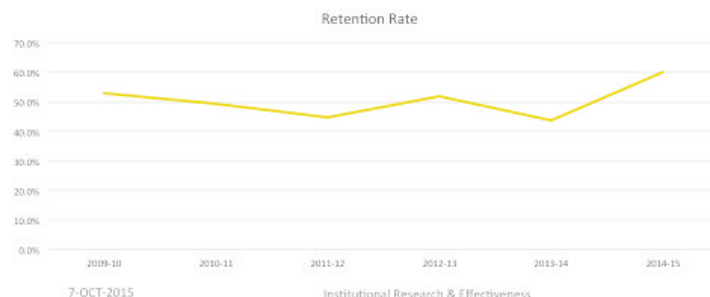
One of the reasons for the spike in the retention rate is President Raymond Burse's commitment to transformation. In August, Burse unveiled a new lineup of staff and faculty as part of his transformation team. He also has installed a new theme: In All Things Excellence.

Special assistant to the president Melinda Impellizzeri, who leads the University's Strategic Direction, believes that one of the key investments in the retention rate is the commitment to stronger programs around educational outcomes as well as staff and faculty accountability.

Retention Rate

Retention rate is calculated as percent of first-time, full-time bachelor degree-seeking (Cohort) who enrolled in previous fall term and returned in current fall term.

	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
Fall Cohort Size	410	450	431	329	462	274
Returned	217	221	192	170	202	165
Retention Rate	52.9%	49.1%	44.5%	51.7%	43.7%	60.2%



"We're putting structure in place to deliver better organization, better student progress monitoring, better customer service, and overall effectiveness," says Impellizzeri. "It's more than just a job, we are transforming to hold each other accountable for every role in our students' success."

KSU Alum Garry Bibbs gives Legacy Seminar Address



Sculptures by Gary R. Bibbs on display in the Student Center Ballroom foyer.

The Division of Fine Arts at Kentucky State University hosted its annual Legacy Seminar during Homecoming Week. The address was provided by artist, professor and KSU alum, Garry R. Bibbs.

Bibbs is also head of the Sculpture Area at the University of Kentucky. Bibbs works with a variety of metals and his large-scale sculptures can be found in cities across the country. In addition to the address, Bibbs installed an exhibition of his work in the Student Center Ballroom foyer.

Bibbs graduated with a B.S. degree with honors in Studio Art from Kentucky State University, completed his Master of Fine Arts degree from the University of Kentucky and received in 1986 a Ford Postdoctoral Fellowship to study art at the Art Institute of Chicago.

KSU professor to receive \$728,615 grant from National Institute of Justice

Kentucky State University associate professor of psychology and sociology Dr. Mara Merlino has been awarded grant funding of \$728,615 from the National Institute of Justice for her new project, "Cognitive Human Factors and Forensic Document Examiner Methods and Procedures."

The program was established as a part of President Barack Obama's Executive Order 13532, Promoting Excellence, Innovation and Sustainability at Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

Kentucky State University received official notification of the award from the National Institute of Justice on Thursday, Sept. 17.

"This will allow us to expand and continue our previous studies in forensic document examination," she says.



Dr. Mara Merlino

Merlino, who has been teaching at KSU since 2009, says that forensic science is any area of science that intersects with the legal system. Forensic science is used in many areas of law, including criminal, civil, family, and probate cases.

"But this in particular (for the research) deals with the examination of handwriting, hand printing and questioned documents," she explains. "As technology increases more and more, the examination of questioned documents can deal with ink chemistry and the characteristics of printers. In fact, I know a guy who is an astounding expert on typewriters. He can look at a piece of typewritten stuff and he can tell you the make and model of whatever machine produced it."

KSU grad and author awards scholarship at book event

Kentucky State University graduate and elementary school teacher Angela Wilkinson, who has recently released a children's book "Donuts Don't Lie," awarded a scholarship to KSU senior Christopher White during her meet and greet event Thursday at the Rosenwald Center for Families and Children in Frankfort, Ky.

Wilkinson said White's bio stood out from the ones that KSU professor Dr. Herman Walston sent from students who are majoring in Child Development and Family Relations.

White, a Louisville native, completed an internship at the U.S. Department of Defense in Key West, Fla. He talked with families about major and minor situations in a program called Kids Included Together during his internship.

"He's already offered a job with the Department of Defense in Florida," says the author. "He seems dedicated with working with children and making a difference in their lives, and that resonated with me. He has a lot of experience in dealing with kids. He is a bright, focused young man."

White, who will be graduating in May, is excited to be the first recipient of Wilkinson's scholarship.

"I'm overjoyed that I can win a scholarship from an alumna," he says. "I plan to use the scholarship in the spring toward books and supplies."



Christopher White with KSU grad and author Angela Wilkinson